

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A Verse by Verse Study

by

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CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

The New Heaven; The New Earth; The New Peoples; The New Jerusalem; etc.

- 1. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.**
- 2. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**
- 3. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.**
- 4. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**
- 5. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.**
- 6. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.**
- 7. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.**
- 8. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**
- 9. And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.**
- 10. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,**
- 11. Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;**
- 12. And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:**
- 13. On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.**
- 14. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**

15. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

16. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

17. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

18. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

19. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

20. The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolyte; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, anamethyst.

21. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

22. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

24. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

25. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

SEVEN NEW THINGS

In Revelation 21 and part of 22 we will find seven new things:

1. The new Heaven
2. The new earth
3. The new peoples
4. The Lamb's wife, the new Jerusalem
5. The new temple
6. The new light
7. The new Paradise and the river of the water of life

Revelation 21 opens with “**And I saw a new heaven.**” John wants us to know for sure that he knows what he is talking about. He saw it, he was there, he witnessed it. The word is singular - Heaven. In Genesis 1:1 we read, “**In the beginning God created the heaven** (singular).” There are three heavens now: The atmospheric Heaven, the starry Heaven, and the third Heaven, which is God's house (II Corinthians 12:1-3). God's house will not be made new. It is the atmospheric Heaven that will be made new.

The devil has his kingdom in the Heaven just above us where the atmosphere is; the very air is filled with demons.

Both the Heaven and the earth will be made new and will be adapted to the new creatures who will inhabit them. The Heaven of heavens, God's dwelling place, will never undergo any change at all.

God's house is perfect, unmarred and unscarred by sin.

Neither evil nor enemy shall ever invade God's new Heaven and new earth. Righteousness shall dwell therein - not reign, as in the Millennium. (Read Isaiah 66:22; II Peter 3:13).

The last part of verse 1 tells us, “. . . **the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.**”

This statement refers to Revelation 20:11: “. . . **from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away.**” This dissolution (not complete annihilation) will take place through the melting process of fire (II Peter 3:10). The world and the works will be burned up, the elements will be on fire, the air will explode. When the new Heaven and earth come into being there will be no more sea, no more great oceans - restless, destructive, never calm or still. The great separating medium of the continents is essential to both animal and vegetable life now; but the sea will not be needed in God's great new economy.

During the Millennium the sea will still be here . . . we read of nations, rivers, seas; but in the eternal ages there will be no need for a sea. The removal of the sea will give immense land surface exceeding greatly the surface of earth's land today. There will be countless hosts of Gentiles and the entire nation of Israel who will dwell on the new earth.

Verse 2: “**And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**” Again John says, “**I saw,**” assuring us that he was there and he knows for sure what he is writing about.

The new Heaven and the new earth that John saw are not described; however, the Pearly White City is described in minute detail.

There is no doubt in my mind that the earth will be a magnificent place - one giant garden of flowers, shrubs and everything that an eternal God can and will provide to make life complete and abundant. The new earth will be one giant paradise (the word means “*Garden of Pleasures*”). God has no joy in the death of the wicked; it is not His will that men suffer. He has great joy in blessing His people, and no good thing will He withhold from them who love Him, serve Him and walk with Him.

The term “**holy city**” occurs three times in Revelation: Chapters 11:2; 21:2; 22:19. The first time it refers to the literal city that will be here on earth during the coming crisis. The other two refer to the Holy City after the battle of Gog and Magog.

The Church is referred to as **“the New Jerusalem, the holy city.”** (Read Revelation 3:12.)

In the New Testament there are three Jerusalems: The heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22), the earthly Jerusalem (Revelation 11:2) and the New Jerusalem, **“the holy city”** (Revelation 21:2-10).

The term **“new Jerusalem”** is in contrast to the literal city of Jerusalem in Palestine, which has played such an important part in the history of the world. The term “new” is used three times: The new Heaven, the new earth, the new Jerusalem.

John saw the new Jerusalem coming down from God out of Heaven. Jesus told the disciples (John 14:1 ff, **“I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go . . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”** Jesus ascended back to the Father (Acts 1:10,11), and for 1900 years He has been preparing a home (the new Jerusalem, the Pearly white City) for His Bride. The only earthly term known to Heaven that could give us some idea of the splendor, beauty and magnificence of the city, is used by the Holy Spirit to suggest to us what the city appeared **“like unto”** as compared to earth:

“Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

There are not enough adjectives in all the languages of all the world to describe the magnificence of the city John saw coming down from God out of Heaven! Those of us who are born again will occupy that city in the by-and-by. John saw the city **“coming down from God out of Heaven.”** He does not say - nor does he suggest - that it came to rest upon earth's surface. It is my belief that the Holy City will be suspended between Heaven and earth, and I will point out later the reasons why I believe this. Yes, the Pearly white City will be a literal city - not mystical or spiritual. We will occupy a literal city.

In verses 1 and 2 we see two of the seven new things: The new Heaven and the new earth. In verse 3 we see the third new thing:

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.”

The word **“behold”** denotes that we should pay very close attention to the amazing fact that the tabernacle of God is with men.

- God visited Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden,
- He walked in the Garden in the cool of the day and talked with Adam.
- God appeared to the patriarchs of Israel,
- He dwelt in darkness in the unseen and innermost part of the tabernacle of old.
- God was in Christ in the days of His flesh (II Corinthians 5:19),
- He dwells in the Church today by His Spirit;

But the actual dwelling of God with His creatures on the new earth will take place when the first Heaven and the first earth are passed away and the new Heaven and new earth come into being.

In verse 3 we find fulfilled, **“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”** (Matthew 5:8). In II Corinthians 6:16 we read, **“God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”**

Concerning the new peoples who will occupy the new earth,

First, God’s tabernacle will be with them.

Second, God tabernacles with them - He moves in and out; He is literally moving along with them here on earth, and of course, they will not be confined to earth’s surface. We will learn later that they will have access to the Pearly white City.

Third, these new peoples are God’s people.

Fourth, God Himself - no mediator - just “God with them.”

Fifth, God will be with them forever.

This will be a fixed, permanent relationship between God and His people.

In verse 4, **“God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”**

This verse has nothing to do with the Church and the Lamb of God.

It is not the Lord Jesus, but Jehovah God Himself who wipes the tears from the eyes of these people. This is not the Church, but a new people dwelling on God’s earth. The people of the new earth are assured that God **“shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”**

There will be no more death where God is. No more sorrow ever will be known by the peoples on the new earth. No more crying, weeping or wailing. There shall be no more pain, no more misery, because **“the former things are passed away.”**

God has brought an end to the curse that sin brought upon man. There will be no curse and no sin in the new earth, and sin is to blame for all sorrow, heartaches, misery, tears, pain and death. God will see to it that sin will never invade the new earth, and verse 5 explains why:

“And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

The one who sits on the throne said, **“Behold, I make all things new.”**

The Lord God is sitting on His throne, the throne of omnipotence, the throne of absolute sovereignty; and sitting upon that throne, God declares His will: “. . . **All things NEW.**”

God will not repair the old order; He will not improve on the old order; He will make all things brand-new. The whole creation, the entire eternal state, whether people, things, or whatsoever, will be made new. God Himself commands John to write. In Revelation 19:9 the angel commanded John to write, but here it is Jehovah God Himself.

What did God command John to write? “**BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.**” God then says “**Amen!**” to that statement by saying, “**For these words are true and faithful.**”

God demands our attention. This is not just a promise, but the divine declaration of the sovereign God who cannot lie. There will not be one trace of the old order left. Every minute detail of all things will be new.

Verse 6: “**And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.**”

The term “**It is done**” simply means that it is a settled fact.

John saw it in the Spirit but it was just as real to him as if he were living in the moment when all things will be made new. God said it - and what God declares is sure to come to pass. “**Behold, I make all things new . . . It is done!**” That settles it.

The greatness of the speaker is pointed out: “**I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.**”

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet. “**The beginning and the end**” tells us that all testimony on earth began with Jehovah God and will end in His glory. All creation, all promise, all prediction, all prophecy, all love, all testimony, grace, salvation and mercy have their source in Jehovah God, and in Him is their fulfillment. When God has anything to do with it, it cannot fail. To man it may seem a failure, but to God, not so. God is victorious in the end.

Anyone who is thirsty can be satisfied at the fountain of life. The fountain is God, the water is promised to all who are thirsty. The water of life is God’s gift freely given - it cannot be bought. Money does not talk at the throne of God. All good gifts come from God and are free (Isaiah 55:1; James 1:17).

Verse 7: “**He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.**”

Here we have a tremendous promise. Everyone who is an overcomer shall inherit “**all things.**” Not only will he inherit these things, but the relationship between the overcomer and God is very, very close - the relationship of a son to the Father.

To the overcomer God will be God, but the overcomer will be God's son, and certainly God loves as no finite mind can comprehend. We will never know the fullness of God's love until we have a glorified body. Then we will be able to understand; God help me to be an overcomer. God help you, dear Christian, to strive to master the members of your body and to present yourself to God; a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable, which is our reasonable service to Him who loved us so much He gave His only begotten Son that we might become the sons of God, and through His grace and power be overcomers.

Verse 8: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

In my meetings I preach a sermon using this verse as a text. My subject: YOUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS IN HELL. Let me give you a brief outline of this message here: No person would purchase a piece of property on which to build a home without first investigating the neighborhood. A thinking husband, planning a family, would not purchase a piece of property on the street of forgotten men, in a settlement of bootleggers, nor in a section of the city where gangsters and dopers live. A thinking husband and father-to-be would purchase a piece of ground on which to build a home in a respectable neighborhood of decent, honest, upright ladies and gentlemen, always checking as to whether or not there is a good school and a good church.

But if you are so unfortunate as to die in sin and drop into hell, your next door neighbors will be the following:

1. The fearful. The Greek word suggests "*cowardly*" . . . those who were afraid to confess Christ, afraid to identify themselves with Jesus, the Gospel, and Christian people; afraid of what others might say if they became a Christian. Have you ever been around anyone who is afraid of everything? To be around such a person takes all the joy out of life.
2. Unbelievers. The most numerous on earth today are the millions of unbelievers, and they will all open their eyes in hell.
3. The abominable. This denotes the filthy, despicable dopers, sex maniacs, alcoholics from the gutter on the street of forgotten men . . . in other words - every degenerate sinner who has died, or will die and drop into hell, will be your next door neighbor.
4. Murderers. How would you like to live in an apartment house filled with murderers? How would you like to live in a community where twenty-five murderers have their homes? If you go to hell you will live there with millions of murderers, including Hitler, Stalin and the gangsters whom you know have lived and been executed in America. Would you like murderers for your next door neighbors?
5. Fornicators. This points to the persons who practice illicit love before marriage - girls and young women who sell their bodies to ungodly, lustful men.

Some of you precious girls and ladies who read these words would scream and run for your life if you thought you were in the same room alone with a sex fiend; and yet - good, moral, clean, virtuous girls and ladies who are not saved will read these lines, and regardless of how clean they are, if they die without Jesus they will open their eyes in hell and live next door to every fornicator who has ever died or will die!

6. Sorcerers are named among those who will occupy hell. A sorcerer is one who professes to discourse with spirits of the other world. Under the Law, a sorcerer was put to death (Deuteronomy 18:10-12). God has appointed the lake of fire as the final destiny for all who practice witchcraft, spiritualism, devil-worship or any kind of sorcery.

7. All idolaters will be in hell. The teeming millions who worship idols, other gods - the heathen, past and present; great men who make gods of their business, their home, their wife, their lady friends or whatsoever . . . all idolaters will be in hell. Would you like to purchase a piece of property right in the midst of the jungle and build a home amid head-hunters and monkey-worshippers?

Think it over! If you go to hell you will live right in the middle of them forever!

8. Liars. I think a liar is one of the most detestable people on earth. You can watch a thief, you can put locks on your doors and put your valuables in a strongbox - but what can you do about a liar? A liar can destroy the reputation of a young girl, a young man, a minister, an evangelist, and can cause more heartache and heartbreak in sixty seconds than a lifetime can erase.

There will be no liars in Heaven; every liar who has ever lived and died will open his eyes in hell.

In closing the discussion here, let me add three other neighbors to the list: **“And the devil that deceived them was cast alive into the lake of fire and brimstone where the Beast and the false prophet are, and will be tormented day and night forever and ever”** (Revelation 20:10).

Not only will you live next door to the fearful, the unbelievers, abominable ones, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters and liars, but you will also live next door to the devil himself, to the Beast and the false prophet - the Satanic trinity!

And if you go to hell when you die, after the devil is put into the lake of fire he will point his finger in your face and say to you, “Did you not know you did not have to come to this place of torment? Did you not know Jesus died for you? Did you not know that all you had to do to stay out of hell was to believe on Jesus and receive Him?”

Then he will laugh in your face and say, “You poor fool! You could be in glory with Jesus now!” The greatest torment in the lake of fire will be the continual reminder that God did not create hell for you (Matthew 25:41), nor was it God’s will that you spend eternity in hell (II Peter 3:9).

You will curse the day you were born, while you scream, beg, roast, fry, sizzle, gnash your teeth and beg for a drop of water to cool your parching tongue. God help you, friend, if you are not born again, to come to Jesus now and let Him save your soul. **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved”** (Acts 16:31). (Also read John 1:12,13; John 5:24; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9, 10.)

THE LAMB’S WIFE, THE NEW JERUSALEM

In verse 9, John is invited by one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, to come with him to see the Bride, the Lamb's wife. In verse 10, the angel carried John **"away in the spirit"** to a great high mountain, and showed him the Holy City, Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God. Please notice that John saw this in the Spirit, while we will experience it literally.

In verse 11 we learn that the city had **"the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal."** John saw a city fifteen hundred miles long, fifteen hundred miles wide and fifteen hundred miles high, that shone like one giant sparkling diamond. The city was clear as crystal. John saw it in the spirit, but we will live in it.

In verses 9, 10 and 11 we have the account of John, penned down as he saw it in the spirit: He stood on an exceeding high mountain and saw with his spiritual eye the great city - the Holy Jerusalem - coming down out of Heaven from God.

Jesus said to His disciples, **"Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go to prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also."** Thomas then asked a very timely question: "Lord, how do we get there?" Jesus answered, **"I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me"** (John 14:1-6).

Verse 11 tells us about the light of the city.

Verses 12 through 25 describe the foundations, walls, street, gates, etc. One could write a book on these verses, but I think I shall simply point out that this description given in verses 11-25 is the best God could do in the language of man.

It is impossible for me to think of a diamond fifteen hundred miles square - and yet this city will be just that.

Oh, yes - it will be a literal city; never let anyone tell you this is a spiritual application. In verse 12 we read, **"And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel."**

Certainly it will take a great wall to support a city fifteen hundred miles high. The names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel are in the foundation because Jesus said, **"Salvation is of the Jews"** (John 4:22).

Gentiles were without hope, without God, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers from the covenant of promise; but Jesus broke down that middle wall of partition, and now the Gospel is to **"whosoever will"** - Jew or Gentile. But the oracles of God were given to Israel, and through God's chosen people the Scriptures came down to us.

Verse 13 gives the location of the gates of the city:

There will be three gates on the east, three on the west, three on the south and three on the north - and that verse means exactly what it says. There will be three literal gates on all four sides of the city, making twelve gates. There will be a shining angel at each gate.

Verse 14 describes the wall and the foundations of the city.

Note that the city has twelve foundations, and in these twelve foundations the names of the twelve apostles. Someone may be asking, "Why twelve foundations?" The wall of the city will be fifteen hundred miles high and it will take a good foundation to support such a wall.

In verse 15 the one talking with John had a reed (a measuring stick) made of gold. A reed in that day was about ten feet long. With the measuring stick the city was measured and in verse 16 it is clearly stated that the city is foursquare. The Bible declares **"the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal."**

There is no need to try to explain away a plain Bible fact such as we have just read. The city is as long as it is wide, it is as wide as it is long and exactly as high as it is wide and long. It is a square city - not a pyramid, not a sphere, not a rectangle - but foursquare. The measurement was twelve thousand furlongs. One furlong is 582 feet. Multiply 582 by 12,000, then divide by 5,280 feet in one mile, and you will get the exact size of the city - 1,500 miles long, 1,500 miles wide, 1,500 miles high.

In verse 17, the wall of the city is measured - 144 cubits . . . or, 216 feet thick. Remember, there are 12 foundations, and the wall rests upon them. I gather that the foundations graduate in thickness, the twelfth one being extremely thick; and they graduate on up to the beginning of the wall which will be 216 feet thick. Think of a wall 216 feet thick - and yet it must be thick and strong because the city is pure gold, with all kinds of jewels and diamonds.

Verse 18 describes the materials used in building the wall.

It is hard for the finite mind to take in these things, yet we know God created this universe and He owns all the jasper, gold, rubies, diamonds and precious stones. The wall is of jasper and the city is PURE GOLD - so pure that it is transparent, as clear glass. I am glad I am going there, aren't you? I am glad that one day I will see that city. It is hard for me to understand it now, but I will have a glorified body then and I can appreciate it.

In verse 19 the foundations of the city are described. These foundations will be garnished with all kinds of precious stones . . . every type of priceless stone will be used in the foundation. The stones are named: The first foundation is pure jasper; the second, sapphire; the third is chalcedony; the fourth foundation is emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolyte; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

I admit I do not know what some of these precious stones look like; I have never seen them - but I know they are beautiful and one day I will see them in the foundations of the Pearly white City. These stones are not all the same in color. The jasper is bright and glistening, the other stones are varied colors. Think of the magnificence of the foundations and the city of pure gold! It is beyond human imagination.

Verse 21 enlightens us concerning the gates:

There are twelve of them, and with only three on each side of the city they would be of tremendous size. Each gate is one giant pearl! **“And the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.”** Note that the Scripture does not say streets (plural). We will all live on Main Street - there will be no back streets. Only one street - and that street is pure gold . . . gold so pure as to resemble clear glass. This is not symbolic. The Scripture does not say **“as it were”** pure gold. The Word simply states in understandable language, **“THE STREET OF THE CITY WAS PURE GOLD”**! One day I will walk on that street, and so will you if you are born again. God pity the spiritualizers who try to tear down the magnificence of God’s eternal city - a literal city.

Verse 22 reveals the fifth new thing in God’s new economy: **“And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.”**

The thought of a temple of necessity confines the presence of God to a specific location or building, thereby placing some worshippers near to Him and some far away, as was the case when the temple stood on Mount Moriah. Here, **“no temple”** signifies that full and free access to God at all times will be granted to one and all.

The peoples in the Pearly white City will have immediate access to God without the aid of priest, mediator, or the tabernacle. God will abide in the Pearly white City, and also the Lamb who will have made good His glory, in whom the Godhead dwells (Colossians 1:19) and by whom Jehovah God is expressed fully and completely (John 17:23). There will be no need of a temple, no need of a meeting place, for God will be everywhere as He dwells with His people.

Everyone will live next door to Jesus! Everyone will live next door to God! God and the Lamb will make themselves known throughout each and every square inch of the vast city, and the light of the city will illuminate all things made new. There will be no house of worship in the Pearly white City. God will be there, and God and the Lamb will be the temple. We will worship any time, all times, anywhere and under all circumstances. No mediator as we have today, no temple as in the Old Testament era.

In verse 23 we have the sixth new thing: **“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”** Jesus said, **“I am the light of the world.”** Where Jesus is there can be no darkness, and there will be no darkness in eternity. There will be no morning, noon and night, but one long day of eternal light, eternal glory, eternal bliss. Jesus and God will be the light - not only of the Pearly white City, but of all things made new. Shekinah glory will illuminate every square inch of all things made new.

Verses 24-26: **“And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of (the city) shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.”**

I am sure someone is asking, “Who are these saved nations?” These are the peoples who refused to follow Gog and Magog when Satan was loosed for a little season.

I pointed out that there will be billions born during the Millennium. When Satan is loosed and goes to the four corners of the earth to test and try men, a number “as the sands of the sea” will follow him; but there will be millions who will refuse his leadership. There will be kings and great men who will refuse to follow him, and they will make up the saved nations. Also on the new earth will be the nations who were friendly to Israel during the reign of the Antichrist, together with the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.

The new earth, then, will be occupied by Israel and the saved nations.

The Pearly white City will be the home of the New Testament Church, the Bride of Christ. The third Heaven (God’s house) will not be changed. Angels, cherubim and seraphim - and God Himself - will dwell there. God is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent. Do not attempt to limit God to the new earth, the Pearly white City or the Heaven of heavens.

God is everywhere, and will be everywhere, throughout eternity. Do not question God’s being in the third Heaven, in the new earth and in the Pearly white City at the same time, because with God all things are possible and He is everywhere. The saved nations will bring their glory and honor into the Pearly white City. They will acknowledge the authority of Heaven, and will acknowledge that Heaven is the seat of all government. The Millennial kings and nations and Israel will walk in the bright light of the glorious city, they will gladly bring tribute into the city and present it to the Lamb and to their God, who will already have wiped away their tears. But they will not abide in the Pearly white City; their abiding place is the new earth. (The Pearly white City is the abiding place of the Church.)

God saves sinners FOR Christ’s SAKE, that through the ages of ages He (God) may display in the Pearly white City, the Bride purchased for the Son at the price of God’s own blood (Acts 20:28) in the veins of the man, Christ Jesus, who took a body and in that body conquered the world, the flesh and the devil, tasting death for every man, destroying him that had the power of death (Hebrews 2:9-14).

At the consummation of all things, when God makes all things new, He will display the Bride of the Son in the Pearly white City suspended between Heaven and earth. All the nations and all the peoples - yea, the angels and the cherubim - will walk and move in the light of the city, and the exceeding riches of the grace of God will be displayed in the heavenlies throughout the eternity of eternities.

The Church is the Pearl of great price.

God exhausted the riches of Heaven to make possible the salvation that you and I enjoy, the salvation that gives us a right to enter the city, the salvation that is ours by God's power, through God's grace, provided through His great love in order that His only begotten Son might have a spotless Bride throughout eternity.

Yes, the Church is the center and soul of God's activities on earth today. God is working through the Church - and again let me carefully point out that I am not referring to a building, but to the believers who make up the New Testament Church.

When the Rapture takes place God is not finished with the Church. The Church will be the seat of eternal government, light and knowledge throughout all eternity (Isaiah 9:6,7). God's government will never cease to be. The Pearly white City will be the capital of the King, occupied by the King of kings and His lovely, spotless Bride - the Church.

Revelation 21 closes with a solemn warning: **“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”**

Thank God for this verse! God will see to it that the episode recorded in Ezekiel 28 will never be repeated.

God will see to it that the tragedy of Genesis 3 will never be repeated. God will see to it that in NO WISE - under no circumstances nor by any means - will anything enter into the Pearly white City to mar, scar and defile. Nothing abominable shall enter there.

Revelation 21:8 tells us that all evil ones are in the lake of fire, eternally imprisoned and sealed, never to be released, and the devil is there, too. Satan had access to God's throne in the beginning when he was Lucifer, the shining one (Isaiah 14). But in the Pearly white City there will be no devil - nor in the new earth or the heavenlies. Satan will be in the lake of fire, the eternal prison of the damned. We need not worry about the sin-tragedy recurring. It will not, because God Almighty will have put down evil once, for all, forever. Satan's head will be crushed, his kingdom destroyed and his subjects in the lake of fire with him. Only those who have their names in the Lamb's Book of Life will be in the Pearly white City. The only way to get your name in that book is to be born again through the power of the Blood of the Lamb.

The Lamb's register - not the church book, not a book of religion, not even the book of physical life (all names are in that book). There is a distinct difference between the Book of Life and the Lamb's Book of Life. Be sure your name is in the Lamb's Book that registers all the names of all the redeemed.

~ end of chapter 21 ~

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